

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 TORONT 01040 031416Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-15 OES-07 COME-00 SIL-01 LAB-04 EB-07  
/088 W

-----031425Z 109899 /40

R 021955Z MAY 77  
FM AMCONSUL TORONTO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5415  
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMCONSUL WINNIPEG

UNCLAS TORONTO 1040

E.O.11652: N/A  
TAGS: PGOV, CA  
SUBJECT: ONTARIO TORIES FINALLY MANAGE TO LOSE ON CONFIDENCE VOTE AND  
FORCE GENERAL ELECTIONS

ALL OTHER CONSULATES GENERAL IN CANADA VIA POUCH

REF: TORONTO 1022 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. AFTER WEEKS OF TRYING, MINORITY TORY PROVINCIAL  
GOVERNMENT FINALLY LOST VOTE ON CONFIDENCE ISSUE APRIL 28 AND GENERAL  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY WAS DISSOLVED APRIL 29. ELECTIONS SCHEDULED  
FOR JUNE 9 EXPECTED TO RETURN PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVES TO MAJORITY  
GOVERNMENT. ISSUES COULD INCLUDE NATIONAL UNITY AND QUEBEC BUT  
ECONOMIC BREAD AND BUTTER QUESTIONS ARE EXPECTED TO DOMINATE.  
END SUMMARY.

2. THE MINORITY PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT OF PREMIER  
WILLIAM DAVIS, AFTER SEVERAL WEEKS OF EGGING ON THE OPPOSITION  
NDP AND LIBERAL PARTIES IN THE PROVINCIAL BENERAL LEGISLATIVE  
ASSEMBLY, FINALLY DECLARED THE LEGISLATION RENEWING THE RENT CONTROL  
LAW AS A MATTER OF CONFIDENCE AND LOST WHEN THE OPPOSITION  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 TORONT 01040 031416Z

PARTIES JOINED TO SUPPORT AMENDMENTS REDUCING PERMISSABLE  
ANNUAL INCREASES FROM THE GOVERNMENT-PROPOSED (AND EXISTING)  
LEVEL OF EIGHT PERCENT TO SIX PERCENT PLUS A VARIABLE BASED  
ON COST OF LIVING FACTORS TO A MAXIMUM OF EIGHT PERCENT. WHILE  
PREMIER'S DESIRE NOT TO CALL ELECTIONS HIMSELF BUT TO LOSE  
ON VOTE IN HOUSE THEREBY SATISFIED, THIS TACTIC SO WELL  
PUBLICIZED THAT PRECISE CAUSE FOR DISSOLVING LEGISLATIVE

ASSEMBLY REALLY IMMATERIAL.

3. ELECTION WRIT ISSUED APRIL 29 CALLS FOR GENERAL  
PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS JUNE 9. MOST OBSERVERS BELIEVE, ASED  
ON POLLS OF LAST FEW MONTHS, THAT TORIES WILL BE RETURNED WITH  
MAJORITY GOVERNMENT, THAT NDP WILL BE WEALER BUT STILL OFFICIAL  
OPPOSITION AND THAT PROVINCIAL LIBERAL PARTY FACING DIFFICULT  
PERIOD. TORIES AND NDP BOTH PREPARED FOR ELECTIONS WITH EACH  
HAVING NAMED CANDIDATES IN MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED OF ONE HUNDRED  
TWENTY-FIVE RIDINGS. LEADER STUART SMITH HAS HAD CONTINUING  
BAD PRESS - THE "JOE CLARK" OF ONTARIO POLITICS --AND REPRESENTS  
A RIDING (HAMILTON-WEST) WHICH BROKE WITH ITS TRADITIONAL TORY  
PATTERN IN 1975 ELECTION. LIBERALS HOLD ONLY THREE RIDINGS  
OF TWENTY-NINE IN METRO TORONTO AND TWO INCUMBENTS RETIRING  
WITH AT LEAST ONE SEAT EXPECTED TO BE WON BY TORY. DEPENDING  
ON HOW WEAKENED LIBERALS ARE, TORIES COULD DO QUITE WELL  
AGAINST NDP IN FIVE OR SIX OF FOURTEEN NDP-HELD METRO TORONTO  
RIDINGS WHERE EFFECTIVE SPLIT OF VOTE BY THREE PARTIES IN 1975  
GAVE NDP VICTORY.

4. WHILE NATIONAL UNITY AND QUEBEC ISSUES COULD BECOME INVOLVED  
IN ELECTION CAMPAIG, PROBABLY MAIN AREAS OF CONCENTRATIN WILL BE  
ECONOMIC/ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AFFECTING CONSUMER POCKETBOOK,  
WORKERS SAFETY, ETC. THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE THREE PROVINCIAL  
PARTIES ON NATIONAL UNITY TEND TO BE SEMANTIC. DURING THE LAST  
FEW DAYS THERE HAVE BEEN GROWING EDITORIAL COMMENTS IN THE TORONTO  
PRESS SUGGESTING POSSIBILITY OF NATIONAL LEADERSHIP FOR DAVIS  
IF HE AND THE TORIES WIN STRONGLY IN ONTARIO. DIGGINS

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REPORTS, ELECTIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, VOTE OF CONFIDENCE, POLITICAL PARTIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 02-May-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977TORONT01040  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770154-1039  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** TORONTO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t197705102/aaaadkmo.tel  
**Line Count:** 89  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 4cda5087-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 TORONTO 1022  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 14-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2325262  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ONTARIO TORIES FINALLY MANAGE TO LOSE ON CONFIDENCE VOTE AND FORCE GENERAL ELECTIONS ALL OTHER CONSULATES GENERAL IN CANADA VIA POUCH  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PINT, CA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/4cda5087-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009